

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Open the door. Heighten the security. Gather the people. Proclaim a fast. Through the medium of television, enter in, and ready yourself to listen, America."

Lord God, today this House Chamber and its Members prepare this place and this Nation to welcome President Barack Obama tonight to listen to his State of the Union.

Guide and protect him, Lord. Grant him health, wisdom, prudence, and forbearance.

Help all Americans, Lord, for "we the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty" do assemble and ready ourselves to hear the President's message and act according to the Constitution that holds us together as a new order both now and for ages to come.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 52

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Yarmuth, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Honda, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Moore, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tonko, and Ms. Bass of California.

(2) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Ms. Schwartz, to rank immediately after Mr. Higgins.

(3) COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California and Mr. Gonzalez.

(4) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, to rank immediately after Mr. Michaud.

Mr. ALTMIRE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FOREIGN AID TO CHINA—
ABSURDITY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the government is going broke. Government spends too much. It borrows too much. It taxes too much. One idea is to raise the government credit card limit.

It's like when my four kids went off to college. When they reached the maximum on their credit cards, the credit card company would simply raise their limit. Thus, they could spend more money by borrowing money. However, they all found out how difficult it was to get out of debt until they quit spending money.

Instead of more U.S. debt, why not cut spending? Start with foreign aid. There are 194 countries in the world, and the United States gives to over 150 of them.

Did you know we give money to dictator Chavez of Venezuela, the tyrant of South America? Did you know we give money to Russia?—and the zinger of all—did you know we give money to China? Yes, the country that owns most of our debt gets foreign aid.

This absurdity must cease. No more foreign aid to the likes of Venezuela, Russia or China.

And that's just the way it is.

BIPARTISANSHIP AND JOBS

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, at tonight's State of the Union Address, it is vitally important that President Obama lays out an effective strategy for new job creation.

The economy is improving, and with more than 1 million private sector jobs created in the last year, more people are going back to work; but far too many Americans still find themselves without jobs, especially in my district in the Inland Empire, where unemployment is 14 percent.

At this time of enormous challenges, we must all recognize that the problems we face cannot be solved by a Democrat or a Republican solution alone. Only—and I state only—by working together and finding common ground will we overcome the obstacles in front of us.

I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues, Republicans and the tea party included, to think outside the box and create a better future for our children and our country.

As we prepare for the President's address tonight, I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle: Are you ready to work with us to move forward?

GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE A
NEW DIRECTION

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President of the United States will appear in this Chamber, as nearly every President has for more than 150 years, and report on the State of the Union, and we will receive him with the respect that is due his Office.

We are told in press reports that the President will focus on the future, on winning the future; but as the President said last Friday, "The past 2 years were about pulling our economy back from the brink"—and we expect to hear the same thing today.

But frankly, as most Americans know, during the last 2 years, this administration and the former majority in Congress met our present crisis with an avalanche of borrowing and spending and bailouts and taxes and takeovers and mandates. Far from pulling our economy back, the weight of debt and taxes and regulation have stifled our economic recovery.

Mr. President, we will not win the future with the failed economic policies of the past. As you come into this hallowed Chamber tonight, we urge you, Mr. President, for not just a new speech. Give the American people a new direction.